

REMARKS

Claims 37-81 are pending in the present application, and claims 37-43, 45-58, 60-73, and 75-81 were rejected in the Final Office Action dated February 28, 2006. Claims 44, 59, and 74 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter. In this Amendment, claims 37, 52, and 67 are amended to include the limitations of claims 42-44, 57-59, 72-74, respectively. Claims 42-44, 57-59, 72-74 are canceled. Accordingly, all of the independent claims now contain allowable subject matter, and thus claims 37-41, 45-56, 60-71, and 75-81 are in form for allowance.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 37-40, 42, 43, 45-48, 52-55, 57, 58, 60-63, 67-70, 72, 73, and 72-78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kothuri et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,470,344, hereinafter "*Kothuri*") in view of *Galaand et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,495,479, hereinafter "*Galaand*").

Claims 41, 56 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kothuri* in view of *Galaand*, and further in view of *Blais et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0178437, hereinafter "*Blais*").

Claims 49-50, 64-65, and 79-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kothuri* in view of *Galaand*, and further in view of *Hsing et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023113, hereinafter "*Hsing*").

Claims 51, 66 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kothuri* in view of *Galaand*, and further in view of *Geil* (U.S. Patent No. 3,662,400).

Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot in view of the claim amendments.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing comments, Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment places the above-referenced application in condition for allowance, and thus, a swift allowance is respectfully requested so that the application may swiftly pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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